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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Yuliana Zhivkova **Georgieva** (Bulgaria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 32nd, 34th and 37th meetings, on 12 and 26 May and 18 June 2010. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/64/SR.32, 34 and 37).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/542);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/641 and Corr.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/64/660/Add.14 and Corr.1).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.40

4. At the 34th meeting, on 26 May, the representative of Sweden informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached during the informal consultations on this item.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/64/L.40).

6. At the 37th meeting, on 18 June, the Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations, proposed an amendment to the draft resolution, which was read out by the Secretary as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 12, the phrase "subject to the provisions of the present resolution" would be inserted after the words "Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions";

(b) After operative paragraph 12, two new paragraphs would be added as follows:

"13. *Decides* to apply a delayed deployment factor of 20 per cent for military contingents;"

"14. *Also decides* to apply a vacancy rate of 22 per cent for international staff and 16 per cent for national staff"

and the subsequent paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly;

(c) In the existing operative paragraph 18, 534,489,200 would be replaced with 518,710,200 and the existing paragraphs 19 to 25 would be updated accordingly.

7. At the same meeting, statements were made before the vote by the representatives of Israel, the United States of America and Lebanon (see A/C.5/64/SR.37).

8. Also at the same meeting, a recorded vote was requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 16 of the draft resolution. A recorded vote was also requested on the draft resolution as a whole.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.40 as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 16 were retained by a recorded vote of 81 to 6, with 47 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[1,2]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia,

[1] The delegation of Cambodia subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it had intended to vote in favour.

[2] The delegations of Luxembourg and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia subsequently indicated that they had intended to abstain.

Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.40, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 132 to 2, with 2 abstentions (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and

[3] The delegations of Cambodia and Nepal subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they had intended to vote in favour.

Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Chad, Côte d'Ivoire.

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Greece (see A/C.5/64/SR.37).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

11. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1884 (2009) of 27 August 2009, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2010,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 63/298 of 30 June 2009,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005, 60/278 of 30 June 2006, 61/250 A of 22 December 2006, 61/250 B of 2 April 2007, 61/250 C of 29 June 2007, 62/265 of 20 June 2008 and 63/298 of 30 June 2009,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007 and 64/__ of _____ 2010,* as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the Force as at 30 April 2010, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 45.6 million United States

* See A/C.5/64/L.57.

[1] A/64/542 and A/64/641 and Corr.1.

[2] A/64/660/Add.14 and Corr.1.

dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only forty-seven Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265 and 63/298;

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265 and 63/298;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

8. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

9. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

12. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

13. *Decides* to apply a delayed deployment factor of 20 per cent to military contingents;

14. *Also decides* to apply a vacancy rate of 22 per cent for international staff and a vacancy rate of 16 per cent for national staff;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276 and 64/__;*

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

18. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 C, paragraph 21 of resolution 62/265 and paragraph 19 of resolution 63/298, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

19. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;[3]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

20. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 550,149,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, inclusive of 518,710,200 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 26,626,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 4,812,800 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

21. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 91,691,566 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2010, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2010, as set out in General Assembly resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

22. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 21 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the amount of 2,264,350 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,832,750 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 367,433 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 64,167 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

23. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 458,457,834 dollars for the period from 1 September 2010 to 30 June 2011 at a monthly rate of

[3] A/64/542.

45,845,783 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 64/249, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2010 and 2011, as set out in its resolution 64/248, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

24. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 23 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 11,321,750 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 9,163,750 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 1,837,167 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 320,833 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

25. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 21 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 101,748,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2009, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006;

26. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 101,748,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2009, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 25 above;

27. *Also decides* that the decrease of 336,100 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2009 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 101,748,900 dollars referred to in paragraphs 25 and 26 above;

28. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

29. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

30. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".